Education

1. Award of scholarship to the children of beedi workers including Gharkhata beedi workers.
2. Composite scheme for Financial Assistance to the school going children of beedi workers for supply of one set of dress, note books and text books.
3. Payment of incentives on passing final University/ Board examinations from High School onwards.
4. Scheme to provide incentive/financial assistance of Re. 1/- per day to female children of beedi workers on the basis of attendance in schools.

Recreation

1. Establishment of Audio-visual sets/cinema vans/ exhibition of films.
2. Organising sports, games, social and cultural activities for beedi workers.
3. Holiday Home Scheme for beedi workers.
4. Supply fo T.V. sets to the beedi workers industrial Co-operative Societies.
5. Establishment of Community Hall in beedi workers housing colony with colour T.V. sets.

B. Assistance under Welfare Funds : Subsidy per unit

S.No.	Item	Assistance Available
1.	Financial norms for purchase of medicines in the dispensaries.	Rs. 4/-per patient per Visit in Allopathic and Rs. 3/- in Ayurvedic Dispensaries.
2.	Scholarship for children studying in class V and above (upto post graduate/ professional course)	Rs. 250/- to Rs. 3000/- p.a. per head.
3.	School uniforms/ Text books and stationery to the wards of beedi workers studying upto class IV.	Rs. 125/- per head.
4.	Rate of increase in number of scholarship.	No restriction.

C. Housing schemes for beedi workers

Sl.No.	Name of Scheme	Assistance available
1.	Economically Weaker Section (EWS) Housing Scheme.	50% of the actual cost of construction subject to maximum of Rs. 9000/-
2.	Build Your Own House Scheme (BYOHS)	(i) Interest free loan upto Rs. 10,000/- (ii) Subsidy of Rs. 3000/- (iii) Additional subsidy of Rs. 1700/- to those workers who adopt small family norms.
3.	Construction of Worksheds/ Godowns by Cooperative Societies of beedi workers	Rs. 75,000/- for each or 75% of the actual cost of construction for both whichever is less.
4.	Group Housing Scheme	(i) Subsidy- Rs.1000/- per house. (ii) Loan- Rs. 6000/- per house.

Statement -III

Statement of Beneficiaries under various Schemes during 1995-96

Allahabad	Bangalore	Bhilwara	Bhubaneswar	Calcutta	Hyderabad	Jabalpur	Karma	Nagpur	Total
244576	493582	283117	492355	353737	901618	891125	781875	291730	4733733

B. Details of Beneficiaries under Various Schemes During 1996-97 (Provisional)

Allahabad	Bangalore	Bhilwara	Bhubaneswar	Calcutta	Hyderabad	Jabalpur	Karma	Nagpur	Total
329456	532596	242868	-------	378192	911809	908731	673416	253823	4238894

[Translation]

Prices of Crude Oil

*446. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA:
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether large scale changes have occurred in the international market of crude oil from January to April, 1997;

(b) if so, the prices of crude oil during the above period in international market;

(c) whether the increase in prices at international market has cast its impact on the Indian consumers during the above period; and

(d) if so, the reasons due to which the Indian consumers do not get the benefit of minimum prices of crude oil prevailing in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) (a) and (b) Oil prices in the international market are highly volatile in nature and these are driven by market forces viz. demand and supply fundamentals, political development in major oil producing/exporting countries viz. resumption of crude oil exports by Iraq towards and December, 96, abnormal variations in weather conditions etc. in various parts of the world market sentiments etc. prevailing at the given point of time.

The average prices of market crude oils viz Dubai, Oman and Dated Brent in the international market as published by Platt's crude oil market wire for the period Jan. 97 to Apr' 97 are USD 18.69/bbl, USD 19.57/bbl and USD 20.20/bbl respectively.

(c) and (d) The existing pricing of the petroleum products is administered according to which some petroleum products like SKO used by the vulnerable sections of the society are subsidised. Original Oil Economy Budget for the year 1996-97 had estimated that net import bill would be approx. US$ 7342.5 million. However, as per revised OEB, the import bill for year 1996-97 is now estimated at US $ 9321.6 million approx.

Oil Pool Account maintained by OCC is estimated to be deficit of Rs. 15,000 crores by 31.3.97 and this is projected to be Rs. 24500 crores by 31.3.98. This amount represents outstanding dues payable to the ojl companies by OCC. Government is exploring various options to contain this deficit.

[English]

Haj Pilgrimage

*447. SHRI RAM NAIK :
SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) the approximate number of Indians who went for recent Haj Pilgrimage and the number of persons who died or were injured and missing due to fire at Mecca and Mina;

(b) the efforts made/being made to provide relief to the famillies of deceased and injured persons;

(c) whether there are instructions for crisis management either to the Indian team or the Indian Embassy

(d) if so, the details thereof and the result of the relief measures made in this regard;

(e) whether the Government have sent a team to Jeddah to find out the facts; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) The total number of Indian nationals who went for Haj pilgrimage this year is approximately 81,000. Of these, 53,664 came through the Central Haj Committee. The balance of approximately 27,000 came through tour operators, from other countries or were residents in Saudi Arabia. The fire at Mina on April 15, resulted in casualties among Indian pilgrims. As of today the total number of identified dead is 94, the number of reported missing is 122, and the number of injured persons receiving treatment in Saudi Government hospitals is 147. In addition, another 269 persons were injured in the fire and its aftermath. Of this number 172 are receiving treatment from the Indian medical mission in Mecca. The total number of injured is estimated of approximately a little over 400.

(b) Government have announced wide ranging relief measures to the families of the deceased and injured persons. These include ex-gratia payment of rupees one lakh to the next of kin of the pilgrim killed in the fire and to the permanently disabled and free treatment to the injured in Government hospitals with financial help as may be required. The embassy of India in Savdi Arabia and the CGI in Jeddah were directed to provide immediate financial and other relief to the injured and to those who were rendered distitute in the fire. Government has offered to fly back to India by a special charter flight the injured pilgrims who were medically fit to travel. Government also offered to the next of kin of the dead to transport the bodies back to India free of cost. Those who have lost their travel documents in the fire are being issued duplicate documents expeditiously and free of cost. Government also mobilised the service of the Indian community in Jeddah and distributed clothes and cash to the needy pilgrims including the injured. Materials required to treat the injured i.e. bandages, cotton wool and ointments were airlifted to Jeddah by the Government of India. Several of the injured who were discharged earlier after receiving treatment in hospitals have since returned to India. Others are awaiting their assigned return flights for India as per the Haj charter schedule. These pilgrims continue to be under observation by the Indian medical mission deployed in Mecca and Madina, and are being rendered necessary medical care until their scheduled flights. Names of injured pilgrims on each return flight are being conveyed in advance by Air India office in Jeddah so as to facilitate their reception on arrival in Delhi and other entry points, as well as prompt medical attention to them and movement to hospitals and clinics as required. Reception of the pilgrims on return is being handled by the concerned State Haj Committee in coordination with MEA, Air India and immigration and Customs authorities. Prime Minister has appointed a two-member Ministerial Committee consisting of Shri. C.M. Ibrahim and Shri Maqbool Dar to deal with the implementation of relief measures. The relief measures are being implemented on an immediate basis through special arrangements created with the framework of Haj Cell in the Ministry of External Affairs for processing and disbursing relief amounts.

(c)and (d) All Indian Missions/Posts abroad have standing instructions and guidelines for emergency and crisis situations. The nature of the tragedy in Mina was of a kind